

SEP 24 2007



FEMA

Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services
P.O. Box 1025 – State Road
Stow, MA 01775

Dear State Fire Marshal Coan:

Thank you for the invitation to attend an upcoming meeting to develop a Massachusetts strategy addressing smoke alarms. I regret that I will be unable to attend; but to assist you in the development of the strategy we offer the following reference materials. You are likely to already be familiar with some of these items.

White Paper on Home Smoke Alarms:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2006releases/040606.shtm>

Investigation of Fatal Residential Structure Fires With Operational Smoke Alarms:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v6i2.pdf>

Smoke Characterization Project:

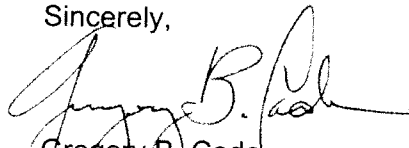
<http://www.nfpa.org/search.asp?query=Smoke+Characterization>

Smoke Alarms; What You Need to Know:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-250f.pdf>

It is the USFA position to recommend the installation of both ionization and photoelectric or dual sensor smoke alarms as both alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires, and because homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home. I wish you success with this meeting and thank you for consideration of our input.

Sincerely,



Gregory B. Cade
U. S. Fire Administrator